

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS - COLOMBIAN NOTE OF MAY 13

REF: BOGOTA 4064

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ, IN A MAY 13 NOTE, REAFFIRMED HIS AGREEMENT TO THE HOLDING OF A JUNE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON. HE STATED THAT HE SAW AS THE AIM OF THE MEETING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VARIOUS SUBCOMMITTEES AND SEMINARS WITH PRECISE OBJECTIVES AND FIRM SCHEDULES.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER POINTED OUT IN HIS NOTE THAT THE QUESTION OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS CARRIES WITH IT CERTAIN ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND RAISES FOR LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY IN REGARD TO CONTROL OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THEIR ECONOMIES. IN SOME OF THESE NATIONS, HE POINTED OUT, THERE ARE PENDING CLAIMS CONCERNING CERTAIN U.S. BASED TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, HE STATED, COLOMBIA DOES NOT

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BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO AVOID AN INTEGRAL EXAMINATION

OF THE PROBLEM AND BELIEVES THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON BUT IN THE CAPITAL OF SOME LATIN AMERICAN NATION THAT HAS NO STRAINS IN ITS PRESENT RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. VASQUEZ, WHILE POINTING OUT THAT PROBLEM WAS BEST DISCUSSED IN A LATIN AMERICAN CAPITAL, STATED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD ATTEND THE PRELIMINARY MEETING IN WASHINGTON, IF THERE IS AGREEMENT AMONG THE MAJORITY OF THE STATES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE APRIL MEETING TO DO SO, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MEETING WILL ADDRESS SIMPLY THE INITIAL ASPECTS OF ORGANIZATION AND A WORK PLAN THAT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED LATER IN A LATIN AMERICAN CAPITAL.

4. THE MINISTER RECOMMENDED THAT THE BASIC STUDY WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS; THE FIRST DEALING WITH THE APPROPRIATE POLITICAL QUESTIONS THAT THE L.A.'S MIGHT RAISE, AND THE SECOND DEALING WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE. HE RECOMMENDED TWO SESSIONS, ONE ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND THE OTHER ON TECHNICAL MATTERS.

5. VASQUEZ STATED THAT IT WOULD BE OPPORTUNE TO CHARGE A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS, CHOSEN BY THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS WITH THE DRAWING UP OF BASIC DATA THAT WOULD FACILITATE A USEFUL COMPARISON BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND OTHER REGIONS. THE STUDIES DONE AT HARVARD AND THE U.N. COULD HE SAID, BE UTILIZED IN THIS REGARD.

6. VASQUEZ ALSO RECOMMENDED THE FIXING OF A FIRM DATE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK AT HAND SO THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER IN BEFORE DISCUSSING THE TOPIC AT THE MARCH MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES.

7. TEXT BEING POUCHED.
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